

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. HEINRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam Speaker, each of us faces a question about whose side we are on today. Will we continue to protect the insurance companies, or will we stand up for the American people? Protect the insurance companies, or stand up for people like Rebecca Gentry, small business owner, whose bottom line is suffering as the cost of health insurance for her employees continues to skyrocket.

Protect the insurance companies or stand up for people like Joseph Crumb, an educational assistant, who can't get health care coverage for his neck and back injuries because his insurance company said they were preexisting conditions.

Protect the insurance companies or stand up for people who are uninsured like Elise Perez-Alford, who will soon have only the emergency room to care for her seriously ill 2-year-old daughter because she can no longer afford the copayments.

The time has come for us to stand up for the American people and to hold the insurance companies accountable.

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Health care reform is needed now. Not tomorrow, not yesterday, but now.

After decades of working hard, the Hernandezes from my district now struggle to pay for prescription drugs with disability payments and unemployment checks. This is wrong.

With the fourth highest foreclosure in the Nation and 15 percent unemployment in my district, my constituents cannot wait any longer. We need health care reform now. Health care reform will lower the costs and hold health insurance companies accountable; provide new coverage for 31 million people; end discrimination based on pre-existing conditions; close the doughnut hole for thousands of seniors; allow 75,000 young adults in my district under the age of 27 to stay under their parents' coverage; provide millions of dollars for funding for seven community centers in my district; cut the national deficit by a hundred-and-some billion over 10 years; and produce 4 million new jobs in the coming decade.

Health care reform is good for seniors, good for adults, good for women, good for families, good for America. Let's support health care reform now.

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(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. You know, even while the President tours

the country saying it's time for an up-or-down vote on health care, the Speaker is attempting to bypass a vote altogether. As Newt Gingrich said, This Congress has gone from voting on bills without reading them to passing bills without voting on them. That is unconscionable and unconstitutional.

It's time for an open and honest vote on health care.

Let's vote on how the bill cuts Medicare, let's vote on how the bill actually hikes health costs. Let's vote on how the bill uses taxpayer dollars to fund abortions.

But the Speaker can't do that. She's faced with the unfortunate inconvenience that some of her Members actually want to listen to their constituents and vote "no." So now she intends to muscle through health care reform without an actual vote. That is just wrong.

I will say it again: Congress has gone from voting on bills without reading them to passing bills without voting on them. America deserves better.

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(Ms. KILROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I believe that a great strength of our democracy is in our First Amendment. It allows for the robust exchange of ideas and opinions. I welcome that. I want to hear what my constituents are thinking, what concerns they have, concerns about how health care will work for them. I want to listen to them discuss the lack of health care and how that affects their life, the high cost of health care and how they are coping with that.

I have held town halls, roundtables, small groups, over 20 meetings in my district over health care. And this week demonstrations for and against health care reform were held in front of my district office.

Unfortunately, some of those opposing health care reform went too far. Instead of making their arguments against the bill, they engaged in abusive language directed at one of my constituents who suffers the terrible ravages of Parkinson's disease. They treated him like a beggar. They threw dollar bills at him. They did not respect his humanity, did not respect his right to give his opinion on the health care bill. This type of protest goes too far. It has crossed a line.

The health care legislation is about respecting each other's rights as human beings. And when it comes to needed medical care, it should respect our rights as citizens to express our opinions.

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(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. This is a remarkable moment in the life of our Nation. After years of runaway Federal spending, deficits, debt, borrowing, bailouts, and takeover, against the opposition of a clear majority of the American people, the Democrats in Congress and in this administration are prepared to ram through a \$1 trillion government takeover of health care. And it's just hard to believe.

Ignoring the will of the American people, twisting the rules of the House and the Senate into a pretzel, we're headed for a showdown this weekend.

But I've got to tell you, I like our chances. The reason House Democrats don't have the votes is because the American people know this is a government takeover of health care. Mandating that every American purchase health insurance, whether they want it or need it or not, passing hundreds of billions of dollars in job-killing tax increases, providing public funding for abortion, and setting into motion government-run insurance that will cause millions to lose the insurance they have is a government takeover of health care.

Let's have the debate. A minority in Congress plus the American people equals the majority. America, we can win this fight.

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(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of March as Women's History Month. Throughout history, women have been at the forefront of our Nation's most important struggles; the abolition movement, support for people with disabilities, efforts to enact child labor laws, civil rights, and environmental causes, to name a few. And now we are again at the forefront of one of the most historic efforts of our time, the fight for affordable health care coverage.

It's not coincidence that we are finally making progress on health care reform with the first woman Speaker of the House at the helm, a woman in charge at the White House Office of Health Reform, as well as several Cabinet Secretaries.

Finally, with all due respect to our male colleagues, I believe it is very appropriate during Women's History Month that we pay special tribute to the women of the House as we continue fighting for the causes our mothers and grandmothers fought for before us. Together, we will continue to make history and will do so next with the passage of health care reform.

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(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House